Claims:

1. A ceramic orthodontic appliance comprising:

a ceramic body having an elongated channel; and

an archwire slot liner received in the channel, wherein the liner includes an occlusal section having a certain thickness, a lingual section having a certain thickness and a gingival section having a certain thickness, wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 250 percent of the thickness of at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section, and wherein each of the occlusal section, the lingual section and the gingival section is bonded directly to the ceramic body.

2. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 250 percent of the thickness of each of the gingival section and the occlusal section.

3. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 400 percent of the thickness of at least one of the occlusal section and the gingival section.

4. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is coupled to the body by an adhesive.

5. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is connected to the body by a braze material.

6. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is connected to the body by a glaze material.

7. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is an assembly that comprises an outer elongated member having a generally overall "U"-shaped configuration in longitudinally transverse cross-sectional view, and wherein the assembly also includes an inner elongated member that is received in the outer member.

8. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 7 wherein the inner member has a generally overall "U"-shaped configuration.

9. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 7 wherein the outer member includes a lingual wall having a central notch.

10. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 7 wherein the assembly also includes at least one post located between the outer member and the inner member, and wherein the post extends outwardly past the ceramic body.

11. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim10 wherein the appliance includes at least one latch extending about the post for connecting an archwire to the appliance.

12. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 11 wherein the latch comprises a self-releasing clip.

13. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance is a bracket.

14. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the body has a mesial section, a distal section and an elongated channel extending generally in an occlusal-gingival direction between the mesial section and the distal section, and wherein the liner includes at least one notch aligned with the channel.

15. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein at least one notch is located on the lingual section of the liner.

16. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein at least one notch is located on at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section of the liner.

17. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein the liner includes three notches, and wherein each notch is located on a corresponding one of the gingival section, the occlusal section and the lingual section.

18. A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the occlusal section is approximately equal to the thickness of the gingival section.

19. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance comprising:

providing a ceramic body having an elongated channel;

providing an archwire slot having an occlusal section, a lingual section and a gingival section, wherein the lingual section has a thickness that is greater than the thickness of at least one of the occlusal section and the gingival section;

placing the archwire slot liner in the channel of the ceramic body; and

bonding each of the occlusal, lingual and gingival sections directly to the ceramic body.

20. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the liner is made by a metal injection molding process.

21. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the liner is made by a machining process.

22. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the act of placing the archwire slot liner in the channel of the body includes the act of bonding the archwire slot liner to the body by an adhesive.

23. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the act of placing the archwire slot liner in the channel of the body includes the act of brazing the archwire slot liner to the body.

24. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the act of placing the archwire slot liner in the channel of the body includes the act of glazing the archwire slot liner to the body.

25. A method of making a ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 19 wherein the lingual section has a thickness that is at least 250 percent of the thickness of at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section.

26. An orthodontic combination comprising:

an orthodontic appliance including a ceramic body having a first elongated channel extending in a generally mesial-distal direction and a second elongated channel extending in a generally occlusal-gingival direction, the appliance also including an archwire slot liner received in the first channel, wherein the liner includes at least one notch aligned with the second channel to define a passageway; and

a vertical auxiliary device having a portion received in the passageway.

27. An orthodontic combination according to claim 26 wherein the liner includes a lingual section, and wherein at least one notch is located on the lingual section.

28. An orthodontic combination according to claim 27 wherein the liner includes a gingival section and an occlusal section, and wherein at least one notch is located on at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section.

29. An orthodontic combination according to claim 26 wherein the vertical auxiliary device comprises a hook, a pin or a spring.

30. An orthodontic combination according to claim 26 wherein the body has a mesial section and a distal section, wherein the second channel extends between the mesial section and the distal section, and wherein the mesial section and the distal section can be squeezed together toward the second channel in order to enable the appliance to be debonded from a tooth.